



THE MCGILL DAILY

VOLUME 84 • NUMBER 58

If it don't fit, don't force it since 1911

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1995

So was it a demonstration or a rock concert?

QUÉBEC STUDENTS, UNIONS, PROTEST PROPOSED SOCIAL POLICY REFORMS

BY MELANIE NEWTON

Québec unions, senior citizens and students packed the Palais des Congrès last Tuesday in the second protest against federal social policy reform proposals in as many months. This time the protest was organised by the Fédération Étudiante Universitaire du Québec (FEUQ).

In spite of the cold weather, between 4 000 and 5 000 students took part, including students from St. Jérôme and Ottawa who were bused in. All five Montréal universities and fourteen Québec CÉGEPs were represented. Simultaneous rallies were scheduled to take place in Québec City, Sherbrooke and Rimouski.

The protest came one day after Parliament reconvened. Just days before the rally, Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy, the father of the reform proposals, was quoted in the *Globe and Mail* saying that the problem of the debt would have to take precedence over his proposals — for now.

Stephanie Vennes, the president of the CÉGEP branch of the FEUQ took issue with this claim. "The problem of the debt is important; we agree with you... but you are not reducing the debt, you are tossing it into the court of the provinces," she said.

FEUQ Vice President Louis Mathieu Loisel said the demonstration was meant to show that all cross-sections of society in Québec were united in opposition to the social policy reforms.

The speakers represented diverse social and economic groups in Québec. Wealthy Québécois Phyllis Lambert was featured along with officials from the Confédération des syndicats nationaux, the Fédération des travailleurs et travailleuses du Québec, Centrale des enseignants du Québec and the Fédération de l'âge-d'or du Québec, a senior citizens organisation.

The demonstration was designed to be a media spectacle, and it was. Huge TV screens showed the white X on a red stop sign that has become the anti-Axworthy proposals symbol in Québec. The same screens alternately flashed images of marching students protesting in the streets.

To signal the beginning of the show at 5pm, the lights were switched off and loud rock music began to play. Lighters could be seen waving above the heads of the crowd.

Images of the speakers were projected on the screens for those who might not be able to see them. The FEUQ had no exact figure for how

much the evening cost, but President François Rebello gave an estimate of \$10 000. Student Society VP External Nick Benedict said that McGill spent about \$1 000.

Representatives from the MacDonald College Student Society and McGill's downtown campus attended the protest, but it not clear how many there were. Benedict, who led Student Society into FEUQ membership last semester, estimated around 400. Other estimates range

from between 150 to 300.

Benedict said he was happy with the turnout.

"Considering it's the middle of February and it's -20 degrees, I was very happy. I don't think we have anything to be ashamed of," said Benedict.

The federal proposal outlines a plan to eliminate federal transfer payments to post-secondary education, which currently amount to \$2.6 billion, by 1996. It also suggests replac-

ing the current loan program with an Income Contingent Loan Repayment Plan, under which all students could get loans regardless of need.

The FEUQ suggests that the government maintain the level of transfer payments but hand over responsibility for how the money is spent to the provinces.

Benedict has not said whether or not he fully endorses this proposal but stated, "When the Québec government holds 80 per cent of the

spending power, the federal government has to look at having a different kind of power... I think it's an idea worth looking at. It would certainly make for a more efficient system."

One undergraduate McGill student at the protest disagreed with the FEUQ position, saying that she thought it may aggravate already existing inequalities between the Canadian provinces and lead to "elitism" in education.

BY-ELECTION CANDIDATES TALK TRASH



THE ST. HENRI-WESTMOUNT CANDIDATES AT AN EARLIER DEBATE SPONSORED BY THE WESTMOUNT EXAMINER

BY COURTNEY LITTIG

With the debate over separatism and the debt dominating their campaigns, candidates for the St. Henri-Westmount by-election have continually ignored other substantive issues.

This trend continued last Wednesday at the Student Society Environmental Committee's all-candidate forum. However, rather than

addressing environmental policy, most candidates avoided any sort of environmental issue in favour of their own agendas.

Even Gerald Glass of the Green Party, known for its categorical support for improved ecological and environmental policy, skimmed over environmental issues. Instead, he stated his opposition to the Axworthy

Reforms and his support for interest-free loans for students. Smiling, Glass threw out the idea of "sending Lucienne Robillard into exile on St. Helena", rather than considering her as a candidate in the by-election.

Gaeton Morency of the Reform Party and Ann Elbourne of the NDP were the only candidates to focus on

the environment. Both presented comprehensive environmental platforms, and refused to participate in what Elbourne dubbed "adversarial politics."

Morency advocated stiffer penalties for repeat offenders of environmental regulations, greater enforcement responsibilities for local and provincial governments in areas of environmental concern, and a tougher stance on water conservation and water purity standards.

Elbourne also mentioned water quality as part of her platform and went on to insist on her commitment to research and development in "fields that promote the environment and environmental cleanup, especially 'green technology.'" She encouraged national investment in corporations who initiate and follow ecologically safe programs.

After the initial exchange of views, a question and answer period followed. Despite specifically environmentally-oriented questions, the answers turned toward separatism and the debt. Finally, the moderator was forced to state that "the environment is not secondary to the debt or interest on the debt...the environment is not a luxury."

Progressive Conservative Jay Gould had harsh words for Robillard, noting her absence at the SSMU forum and the all-candidates forum at Concordia two weeks ago. After muttering a few words about sustainable development, Gould focused the remainder of his six minute policy summary on the failings of the Liberals and the unnecessary nature of the St. Henri-Westmount by-election.

"The Liberal government has yet to keep the promises contained in the Green Plan," he said. Gould cited the failure of the government to appoint an environmental auditor general to report on sustainable development and its inaction in establishing a Canadian Youth Services Corporation.

DEBATE ON PROPOSED SOVEREIGNTY BILL:

Students' Society snubs commission on Québec's future

BY CHERIE PAYNE

Wednesday was the last day for individuals or groups to sign up to submit a brief to the Commission on the future of Québec. Despite a personal invitation from the Commission, the Student Society will not be taking part.

The Commission will be coming to Montréal on February 15 to consult citizens and groups about their views on the proposed Sovereignty bill. There will be two types of public forums, one of which will centre around the briefs submitted to the Commission.

Individuals and group leaders will be able to present their briefs verbally before an audience who will then be able to pose questions. The purpose of this forum is to simply record the desires of Montréalers, not to challenge their suggestions.

Unfortunately, the Commission has already received too many briefs, Montréal Commission member Louis Roy told the *Daily Français*. Due to the glut of submissions, the Commission will be concentrating mainly on those submitted by large groups, then local groups, and finally, individuals.

Commission member Dermot

Travis called Student Society VP External Nick Benedict to invite the Student Society to submit a brief. Benedict declined on behalf of the Society. He noted that according to the Society's bylaws, it cannot take a stand on divisive external issues.

Benedict also noted that he did not have a mandate from councillors or their constituents to take a position on the proposed sovereignty bill.

Despite the Student Society's decision, other groups from McGill — notably Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Students of McGill — will be presenting their own briefs to the commissioners.

DAILY PHOTO BY CAMERON BOOTH

SINCE 1911

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Editorial Offices:

3480 McTavish St., Montréal, Qc.,
room B-03, H3A 1X9

Business & Advertising Offices:

3480 McTavish St., Montréal, Qc.,
room B-07, H3A 1X9

editorial: (514) 398-6784

business/advertising: (514) 398-6790

fax: (514) 398-8318

co-ordinating editors:

Melanie Newton

co-ordinating news editors:

Cherie Payne

news editors: Aubrey Cohen, M.J. Milloy,

Kabir Ravindra

culture editors: Ahmer Qadeer

features editors: Josée Johnston

science editors: —

layout & design co-ordinators:

Kristin Andrews, Maija Martin

daily français: Marie-Louise Gariépy

photo editors: Cameron Booth, David Ryther

liaison editors: David Austin

office co-ordinators: Robin Perelle

contributors:

Courtney Littig,

Anup Grewal, Derek Fung

business manager:

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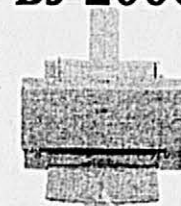
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Notes From Below

A change in the Daily

On February 10, McGill University's Board of Governors agreed to amend the *Daily's* Letter of Agreement with the university to reduce the number of issues of the *McGill Daily* from 95 issues a year to 70. Until that time we were under contract to print 95 issues per academic year in approximately 40 weeks, from September to April.

Previously, the Monday issue was news, Tuesday was the *McGill Daily Français*, Wednesday was news, and Thursday was Culture. After much discussion, at staff meetings and the *Daily's* Priorities and Planning committee, the staff voted to eliminate the Wednesday issue from the schedule as soon as the appropriate steps were taken and permission was given.

The issue was brought to the Daily Publications Society Board of Directors meeting in November 1994, where it was discussed and received unanimous approval.

There were several factors which motivated our decision to reduce the publication schedule. We believed the quality of the paper could be improved if our energy was concentrated on fewer editions of the *Daily* each week. We felt that the quality of the Wednesday issue has often suffered because the requirements of producing two news issues in a week were too great.

Students who volunteer for the *McGill Daily* become involved not only in writing, but also in the running of the paper. Students take active positions on staff committees, the editorial board, the Priorities and Planning Committee, the Board of Directors, the Canadian University Press and the Presse étudiante du Québec. Because of this, the feelings of the student body towards the paper — funding, budgeting, and updating equipment — quickly become the concerns of the staff.

These activities, a commitment to contributing to the content of the paper, and loyalty to the paper require time and mental energy. Contributors to the *Daily* are often burnt out by the time mid-terms roll around. Many editors over the years have either had to resign their positions or drop courses. Many have failed out of school. Others have taken up to six years to complete their bachelors degrees.

Having one less paper to produce each week would result in a better paper for our readers; a

better advertising market; a less stressful and more productive work situation for the volunteer staff of the paper; and will make it easier for staff to make it through school in the average number of years.

Finances were not a major consideration in the decision making process. This issue does, however, play a role in that the English "small newspaper" market is becoming more competitive, and the quality of reporting, photos and graphics has an effect on the advertising we can attract. Advertisers are more willing to spend their money in papers that are not removed from their stands on a daily basis.

We would like to stress that this does not mean less *Daily* for your dollar. The eight pages which previously constituted the Wednesday issue are being redistributed into the Monday and Thursday issues. The decision affects the number of production nights we have to do in a week, not the number of pages in the week.

Students pay \$6.70 per academic year for the *McGill Daily*. When we published 95 times a year, this meant issues cost seven cents each. With 70 issues the *Daily* will cost members between nine and ten cents per issue. Please keep in mind that \$6.70 in 1995 does not mean what it did in 1987, which was the last time the *Daily* asked for any increase in student fees.

At the same time, costs have not remained the same. In 1991 the Students' Society raised our rent from one dollar per year to \$15 000 per year. That's \$60 000 over four years instead of four dollars.

The Daily Publications Society has been an incorporated, non-profit body since 1981. It is independent of all students' societies at McGill. McGill student representatives are elected by a campus-wide referendum to the *Daily's* Board of Directors. Matters, such as the number of issues per year, can be decided by that Board. The Board meets once a month, and the meetings are rarely closed. Unfortunately, tonight's Board meeting will be *in camera* due to the sensitivity of referendum material. You should feel free to get in touch with your student representative to the Board to bring up any points you wish to address. Please write us or drop by a staff meeting, every Thursday at 17h in the *Daily* office. The Staff of the McGill Daily



Sexual harassment policy amendment under fire

by Lisa Draho

WINNIPEG (CUP)— Women's groups are concerned about a proposed amendment to the University of Manitoba's sexual harassment policy which will authorise the president of the university to halt an investigation.

The proposed amendment permits the vice-president to authorise a departure from regular investigation procedures in "exceptional circumstances" — or, with the president's approval, to halt an investigation altogether.

PACW is opposed to the recommendation because of the ambiguity of the term "exceptional circumstances." PACW chairperson Barbara Sherriff said the term "leaves the policy wide open for abuse by future administrations." She

argued that the entire statement should be removed.

Janet Sealey, vice-chairperson of the President's Advisory Council on Women said the current policy already allows for too much intervention by the vice-president.

The current policy allows the vice-president (administration) to recommend a review by senior administration if s/he thinks the investigation officer's actions are inappropriate.

PACW had suggested that a departure should be authorized only "at the request of the investigation officer."

But U of M President Arnold Naimark says the amendment is required to keep all routes of investigation open.

"Occasionally people are doing things that are inimical to the interests of the institution and you have to have a mechanism by which you can follow another line of investigation," he said.

"You need to have an authority that goes beyond the investigation officer. You can't give the investigation officer, who is junior to vice-presidents or presidents, veto power over the authority of the senior officers."

Barbara Sherriff disagreed. "The investigations officers should have the final say — she is the expert in the matter."

According to Naimark, the proposed amendment addresses PACW's concerns.

"The vice-president might want to

sweep something under the rug and halt an investigation — so now if he intends to discontinue an investigation he must obtain the approval of the president. It has to be a high-level decision," Naimark stated.

The U of M Womyn's Centre has organized a petition against the proposed changes to the policy.

"The power to halt an investigation should exist, but it should not go to the president who is already in a powerful position," said Stephanie Southin of the Womyn's Centre. "It should go to an impartial committee or to the investigation officer."

Wrong place at the wrong time

McGill student unjustly detained in Peruvian jail



JORGE PASSALACQUA, PICTURED HERE RECEIVING HIS B.A., SHOULD BE A GRAD. STUDENT THIS YEAR AT MCGILL. INSTEAD, HE NOW WAITS FOR JUSTICE IN A PERUVIAN JAIL.

BY M-J MILLOY

Arrested for a crime he did not commit, a McGill graduate student is beginning his sixth month in a Peruvian jail. Willy Jorge Passalacqua, a Canadian born in Peru, returned to the South American country last spring to research his MA thesis and visit his fiancée. When the company he was working for was investigated for allegedly trafficking cocaine, Passalacqua and some associates were taken to jail.

"My brother was ignorant of the other operations of the business," said Sandra Passalacqua, who returned to Peru last Thursday to fight for her brother's release. "The police report on his case admits that he is innocent," she added.

Jorge worked for "Tamiani Travel" a travel

agency and money courier service with offices in Peru's capital, Lima, and Miami and Fort Lauderdale. The company's owner, Jorge's father, was in the United States at the time of his son's arrest. He refuses to return to Peru. "This case is very, very political," said Sandra Passalacqua. "My brother is the small fish being used to catch the larger fish." She claims that her brother is not being released from jail because the Peruvian authorities hope his incarceration will force his father to return to face justice.

"The president of Peru, Alberto Fujimori, is using this case for his own political ends," accused Sandra Passalacqua. Fujimori is currently running for re-election on a strong "law and order" platform. This

case, along with the successful capture of the leader of the nation's largest guerrilla organization, the "Shining Path" is being used to support his campaign.

Passalacqua alleges that Fujimori is pressuring judges to keep her brother in jail. Although the police have admitted Jorge's innocence, under Peruvian law only a judge can release a prisoner from jail.

The Amnesty International human rights report on Peru for 1994 concedes that Peru's judiciary has become entangled with politics and politicians. In April 1991, Fujimori suspended the constitution and dismissed 13 Supreme Court judges and over 130 other members of the bench. The newly appointed judges were largely made up of friends and allies of Fujimori's party.

Gaining her brother's release is only one of Sandra Passalacqua's worries. "We are paying to keep my brother safe while he is in jail," she said. "We have had to hire two bodyguards for his safety."

Jorge is being held at the Lurigancho Prison outside of Lima. Built in 1968 it was designed for 1800 prisoners; it now holds over 5000. Amnesty International reported that the prison holds seven prisoners in cells built for one, and that there is a "total lack of medical supplies in the prison", as well as little "water and poor food." The International Committee of the Red Cross is regularly denied permission to enter the jail.

"The rules of that place are made inside, by the prisoners," she said. The Passalacqua's hired the bodyguards to protect Jorge from the rival gang groups that run the jail. "There are many guns in the jail. I am very afraid for his life," she said.

In a police raid on the jail in 1986, over 50 prisoners were killed in the ensuing gunfight. Sandra Passalacqua worries the police may raid the prison again before her brother can be released.

Faced with a Canadian citizen in jail, the Department of Foreign Affairs has been taking some constructive steps. "We have been in touch with the Peruvian authorities and we continue to monitor the case", said Jennifer Sloan of the department.

"We have been in touch with the Passalacqua family and we hope that this case will be handled expediently," she continued. Despite concerns over the legality of Jorge's detention, Sloan made clear the fact that "Canada cannot circumvent the Peruvian justice system."

"We cannot ask them for special treatment, nor would we," she said. She admitted,

though, that "detention without formal charge is an unfortunate reality and not uncommon in Peru."

Jorge's family in Montréal has been actively fighting for his release. His step-father, Carlos Rojas, who works at the Law Library, has been making Jorge's plight known by newspapers and television. Jorge's sister is also circulating a petition calling for her brother's release.

"Each week we think he will be coming out very soon," Sandra stated. Her brother's plight has been an emotional and financial strain on the family, who have had to borrow from friends and members of the Peruvian community to fight for Jorge's release.

As well as studying at McGill, Jorge was very active in the local Latin-American community. For four years he was president of COCAS, a local organization that arranges social functions as well as provides translation and immigration services for local Latin-Americans.

"My brother always wanted to write a book about Peru. Now he'll have the chance," Sandra noted cryptically. For the Passalacqua family, Jorge's success and activities in Montréal have added an even more tragic twist to the story.

David Malaga, Charge d'Affaires at the Peruvian Embassy in Ottawa, noted that Peru needs to have stringent drug laws because of the large drug trade in the country. He said that "Peru is fighting a problem that has roots in the developed countries who buy the cocaine." Because of pressure from many development and enforcement agencies, Peru has had to spend a lot of resources on drug enforcement.

The Passalacqua's have little problem with Peru's drug laws. They only hope that Jorge's ordeal will soon be over. "He was in the wrong place at the wrong time," Rojas wrote in a letter to the McGill Reporter.

The night that employees of Tamiani Travel were summoned to be questioned by the police, Jorge was the only employee to go voluntarily. "He said 'I'm not guilty of anything, why should I run away?'" explained his sister. In the mean time, the Passalacqua family continues to hope that the authorities will recognize Jorge's innocence, and that he will be released soon.

The Passalacqua family are collecting signatures for a petition which they hope will help their efforts to free Jorge. The petition is posted in the Bronfman Building. For a copy of the petition call the Post-Graduate Student's Society at 398-3756.

University of Regina on the chopping block

REGINA (CUP)—Students at the University of Regina may be forced to change schools next year if the government cuts transfer payments to post-secondary education.

Officials say if the reforms go through, they won't have enough funds to sustain two universities. The University of Regina (U of R) may have to be shut down in order to funnel as much money as possible into the larger University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon (U of S).

Having one big, central university

would be better than having two smaller ones, said Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce President Fred Smith in a letter last month to Human Resources Minister Lloyd Axworthy.

But Regina Chamber of Commerce President Lloyd Boutilier does not want to see his city's university get sacrificed to Canada's funding cuts.

"If you look at the number of students who live in Regina and the surrounding area who attend the U of R, to a great extent it's

because of the relatively reasonable cost of obtaining a university education," said Boutilier.

"If they had to go to another province or Saskatoon, it would be a financial hardship that they might not be able to endure and they would not go to another university," he continued.

U of R President Don Wells agreed that closing down the university would have serious repercussions. "The two universities

are complementary and they provide a stronger system than if we simply had one university and one way of thinking in our post-secondary system," said Wells.

Boutilier pointed to a 1993 study which concluded that the U of R is economically viable and that the province of Saskatchewan can support both universities.

Sex Focus

Woman Dreams

Maybe I dream
a beautiful young rosy-lipped thing with green eyes laughing at
me as she takes my hand and guides it under her shirt. Her
breasts are small, her nipples already puckered. I lift her
shirt, savouring her scent and replace my hand with my tongue
tracing lazy circles round her nipple. My hands drop to grasp
her hips and pull her closer to me

or sometimes
a denim-clad butch in a leather jacket who sneaks up behind me
and wraps her arms around my waist, pressing her breasts against
my back. She anchors her hands in my hair, pulls my face around
to kiss me. Her tongue is hot: she forces my mouth open to
receive it

maybe I dream
a period piece: a dishevelled virgin in white petticoats tumbled
onto the hay. Her cheeks are flushed with pleasure, pink with
shame as I reach under her skirts and find she's smooth, slick,
soaked. My tongue waltzes slowly, slowly up her thighs to the
cleft between them and she groans in expectation

or perhaps
the Vampire. She wears nothing but black: velvet, tight. I am
defenceless. Eyes closed, arching back in surrender as she
drives her teeth into my neck as her thigh presses against my
pussy as I cry out at the pain and ecstasy

maybe I dream
a pair of anonymous legs, with no face attached. They are open,
inviting, and I travel upwards to the treasure between them.
First, an inquisitive finger between the lips finds waiting
moisture. The legs open more, wider, allow me to press my face
into the jungle-scented slush, and lick and lick

or maybe
a big bulldyke with close-cropped hair, swaying breasts and an
enormous strap-on who parts my legs with her quick thick hands,
pressing my mound as she positions herself above me. She pierces
me with one swift stroke, ploughing into me as far as I can take.
She rides me hard, and I arch to take her, this penetration so
deep, so intense I rake her back with my nails, screaming out an
overwhelming, overpowering orgasm that leaves me shaking and
weak, tears flowing from my eyes,

but I always dream woman.

BY THE VELVET GREEN DUKE AND FRIEND

he stops the car on a side street
and he tells me he doesn't want
to take me home
but instead wants to take

me
I know this
how we got here
and I say no and he kisses me
I should be going home
I should be

but I'm not
next thing we're in the back seat
fucking
and my head is hitting the roof of the car
it's getting cold
I remember suction noises
and the slapping of skin against
skin
straining my neck and turning it sideways
so my head doesn't hit the roof
and wondering how I can maybe lean back
so I don't get a kink in my neck
or so that my knees don't become raw
rubbing on the

plastic seat
we're fucking
and he grabs my hips, breasts
grabs me above the pelvic bone
and tightening
and I wonder if I lean back
if my back will give
and if he'll notice
because my cunt's still
there.

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BY M-J MILLOY

Nestled in the heart of Bangkok's booming financial district are two small laneways that have come to dominate Thailand's popular image abroad. The two streets — simply titled Patpong 1 and Patpong 2 — are the centre of Thailand's sex trade.

The buildings along both sides of the street have been transformed into bars. Cheap beer and loud music are only two of the attractions used to entice Western tourists and businessmen.

The main attraction is Thai women — dressed in G-strings and bras — they dance at the doors, competing to draw eager men into their bars.

The strip is maintained as a semi-legal enterprise. Thai policemen patrol the bars, but rarely close them or even lay charges. Instead, they are another aspect of the open carnival atmosphere: the bars, the women, the market stalls selling counterfeit Gucci watches and Cartier shirts all add to the emphasis of the forbidden and exotic.

For many Western tourists, a visit to the bars of Patpong is a highlight, and often the dominant reason, for their visit to Thailand. The allure of Patpong has been reinforced by glorified media accounts (in magazines like *Rolling Stone*) and Western travel agencies which sell "red-light" tours to Western men eager to experience Patpong.

Although Patpong is the most well-known aspect of the Thai sex-trade to Western observers, it forms only a small part of the national sex industry. The trade touches all corners of Thailand, from glittering Bangkok to remote northern villages. The industry is an integral part of the forces which are transforming Thailand: the creation of a large and wealthy business class and the erosion of traditional culture and practices.

Western critics have focused on the submissive role of women in Thai culture to explain the sex trade. "They are traditionally pliant and easily intimidated, and hold the least skilled jobs in the workforce," wrote Richard Nations in the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

Explanations for the booming sex-trade have also concentrated on the alleged greed of parents who sell their daughters into prostitution. "Parents used to be ashamed, but now

Developing the sex trade

THAILAND'S ROLE

AS CLIENT

Thailand



Call or write for a brochure:
TOURS TO PARADISE

This ad was printed in the mainstream gay and lesbian magazine the *Advocate*.

they are not; they are happy to make a buck to pay for 'modern luxuries'," wrote Sheila McNulty in the *Globe and Mail*. In her view, Thai peasants are opportunists who are "very happy if they get a girl because they can sell it".

Both explanations ignore the greater context of Thailand's history and "development" over the last 30 years. As well, they do not acknowledge the Western complicity in the creation of an industry which creates unimaginable poverty, misery and suffering for both women and men in Thailand.

CLIENT AND TIGER

The importance of the American military's role in creating the current prostitution industry has long been ignored.

For thousands of American servicemen, Bangkok was an opulent sin-city: a necessary "rest and relaxation" stop, a place away from the horrors of the Vietnam war. The core of the industry developed during that period, as a response to the American desire for cheap beer, cheap heroin, and cheap women.

Established during the late 1960's, the industry has grown alongside the present decade's "economic miracle" in Thailand. Many of the forces which propelled the unprecedented economic growth have reinforced and encouraged the sex-industry.

Thai society has been re-

markably transformed in the last ten years. Peasant Thais, once traditional rice farmers, have been lured to the charms of Bangkok with tales of plentiful jobs and a better life.

What awaits new workers is often pitiful wages in dangerous conditions, as workers in Thailand's garment, electronic and toy factories.

Increasingly, Bangkok is the centre of this new economy. Outlying regions, in the mountainous North or poor Northeast, have been marginalised from the new wealth. As well, the profound growth in Western ideas (from Thai rock and roll bands to Mercedes-Benzes) has reinforced the notion of accumulation and consumerism.

Into this situation have stepped "pimps" who offer untold wealth and opportunity to the parents of prospective sex-workers. The majority of these parents — whether pushed off of their land by speculators or forced to farm less fertile soil — have bought into this illusion, often under untold threat and duress.

The pimps often prey on indigenous peoples in the Northern mountains. These people have always been cut off from Thailand's wealth and have had their traditional customs and cultures attacked. With little recourse to the Thai law nor other possibilities, daughters — and increasingly sons — are "bought" or sometimes kidnapped. This allows pimps the opportunity to sell Western and Thai men, a night with "an authentic Hill Tribe Girl".

THE REALITIES OF AN "ECONOMIC MIRACLE"

Beneath the conflicting explanations for the Thai sex-trade, an undeniable reality exists. Both the women and men sold into prostitution are being forced into a "career" in the new economy which will probably end with their death. It is estimated by health organizations that in some areas, HIV-infection is as high as 86 per cent. Abuse and murder is terrifyingly common, as is "being chained, beaten, drugged, denied food and raped by pimps," the *Globe* reported.

Even if they somehow escape being infected with HIV, a bleak existence awaits former prostitutes. Unable to return to their homes — often with a baby, often addicted to heroin — legions of women wander the

continued on page 12

SEX FOCUS CO-ORDINATORS: HABIB RAYINDRA, ANUP GREWAL AUBREY COHEN

WRITING AND EDITING: ANUP GREWAL, HUPATIA FRANKIS, JULIE CRUSLER, JOSÉE JOHNSON, M-J MILLOY, MELANIE NEWTON, CHERIE PAYNE, ROBIN PERELLE, AHMED QADEER

LAYOUT, DESIGN AND PHOTOS: MAURA MARTIN, KLARA BANASZAK, KRISTIN ANDREWS DEREK FUNG, CAMERON BOOTH DAVID RUTHER

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comment

Why a Sex-focus issue?

Sex.

When we try to speak frankly about sex and sexuality, it makes us cross our legs, avert our eyes, blush and fidget. When something as hot and dangerous as sex crosses over from the private to the public domain, it is bound to clash with at least a few of society's taboos. This is why erotica and pornography are dirty, and why *Cinéma l'Amour* is haunted by dirty old men.

Often, those who make the most fuss about sex — what we should or should not be doing with each other — are the ones who pay the most lip service to the idea that sex is essentially a private matter which we should not talk about.

We live in a society which is bothered both by public discourse about sex and what is perceived as 'abnormal' sex. With the increased visibility of groups which represent 'alternative' sexual orientations, these two issues have become inseparable.

Our society is willing to portray women — and increasingly, men — as sex objects. A walk down St. Catherine street or a glance at the latest issue of *Cosmo* or *GQ* will confirm this. These images usually have very little to do with the way people experience sex in their own lives.

We are bombarded with sexist and heterosexist images which tell us what 'normal' sex should be. 'Normal' sex should be between one man and one woman. 'Normal' sex should be in the bedroom, not the kitchen. 'Normal' sex should be in the missionary position.

Images, even positive ones, which don't conform are deemed obscene and are censored. Often, heterosexual depictions which degrade women are allowed, while portrayals of loving egalitarian sex between women or between men are somehow deemed 'perverted'.

These are the attitudes which force groups to make their sexual orientation public. They have no choice but to challenge the status quo, to make this a more inclusionary and accepting world — where we are not afraid to talk about sex. If we are not willing to tackle sex and sexuality in a mature manner, we will not be able to respond to the myriad issues surrounding sex.

In our society, many young women and men choose to sell their bodies to survive, while others feel they have no choice. At the same time, conservative forces in our society want to cut back on education, training and welfare benefits to those who do not have the means to live otherwise.

How do these people suggest we deal with poverty? They say the unemployed should 'get off of their lazy butts' and go get "real" jobs.

There are groups, such as Human Life International, which are very vocal in their opposition to teenage and unwed women having children. At the same time, they are against the use of contraception. They ignore the fact that young people are having sex, and won't even support comprehensive sexual-education programs in the schools that teach responsible sex. They also don't believe in the right of women to get an abortion. And they certainly don't believe in accessible daycare.

So, let's get this right: no education, no contraception, no abortion, no daycare and 'get a job'. Then they blame the single mothers — the poorest members of our society — for the deficit.

How do they suggest we deal with the problems of pregnancy in teenage and unwed mothers? They say these women shouldn't have sex. One solution to the problem of teen pregnancy, proposed by a Republican member of the US Congress was to make sex between people under the age of 18 illegal. Thanks.

Rather than making simplistic value judgments and moral pronouncements in this special Sex-focus issue, we have tried to explore some of the issues associated with sex. Perhaps in this way, we can begin to talk about sex in new and productive ways — without crossing our legs, and averting our eyes.

by Aubrey Cohen, Julie Cryslar, Anup Grewal, Kabir Ravindra

Book Reviews

THE STORY OF O

BY PAULINE REAGE

First published in 1954, the *Story of O* was considered as dangerous as the writings of the Marquis de Sade. It was an immediate underground success.

The work is still highly controversial because it explores female slavery and submission in an extremely sensual and vivid way. Fear of the potential Pandora's box contained in this novel hindered its accessibility.

Supporters of the novel call it a classic. The story is told from the view point of O, the faceless main character. We follow her initiation into an underground world of female slavery and watch her as she submits herself entirely to different masters.

The most gripping feature of this novel is its psychological analysis of O. By the end of the novel, we are able to understand the unthinkable: her total submission to a master.

A widely studied novel in women's studies (there is even a course at McGill that includes it in their reading list) *The Story of O* leaves one with mixed emotions, a sense of sadness which enfolds as we see O totally submit to inhuman sexual practices which range from the torturous to the bizarre. It is a superior analysis of the psyche of a slave.

by Christina Bouchard

THE BEAUTY TRILOGY

BY ANNE RICE (AS A.N. ROQUEL)

Erotica has become a mainstream genre due to its mounting popularity among women. In bookstores, the former lone shelf of unnoticeable books written by the prolific Anonymous is now a colourful display of novels with striking, if not startling,

covers. One of the most popular of these is Anne Rice's *The Beauty Trilogy*, a retelling of the fairytale *Sleeping Beauty*.

Beauty, after being awakened with a kiss, is bound to her prince and must become a slave at his palace for one hundred years. As corny as this may sound, Rice makes it work.

Like the *Vampire Lestat* novels, the *Beauty Trilogy* is written with sensuality. Anne Rice does not revert back to Harlequin-esque deep panting but titillates the senses in these captivating novels.

The Beauty Trilogy is a light read, which lets one indulge in a world of desire and fantasy.

by Christina Bouchard

SAFER SEXY: THE GUIDE TO GAY SEX SAFELY

Safer sex doesn't have to be a drag. Putting on a condom doesn't have to mean *coitus interruptus*. Offering a sex-positive and homo-affirmative outlook, Peter Tatchell's *Safer Sexy* shows how gay male sex can be hot, horny, and safe simultaneously.

Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that safer sex campaigns which are aimed at the head have mediocre value, whereas those aimed at the genitals are profoundly more successful in encouraging people to adopt safer sex techniques.

Rather than simply telling gay and bisexual men to put on a rubber before they engage in anal (or vaginal) penetration, this book graphically shows the myriad ways in which latex can reduce the risk of transmitting disease, and can make gay sex even sexier. It is the first English text to go this far.

As the introductory "Pride and Pas-

sion" chapter says, *Safer Sexy* presents the facts about preventing STDs, such as HIV/AIDS, in a way which is "explicit, educative, erotic, entertaining and empowering." The guide also contains several tips on gay diversity, health, and relationships — and how to avoid gay-bashing by skinheads and police. Straight men and straight/bisexual women will also benefit from this

guide, as it teaches about what men like and how to really turn a guy on. Robert Taylor's photographs add an incredible spice to this book. Read it in the bathroom, read it in bed, read it with a partner... just read it. And remember: Cool queers cum in condoms.

Safer Sexy is available in L'Androgyne Bookstore for approximately \$30.

by Kabir Ravindra



A.J. is a McGill student who has worked on-and-off as a prostitute to help him cover expenses over the course of the past four years. Here he tells, in his own words, of some of the experiences he has had in and out of the sex trade.

In the summer of 1991, I moved from Europe to Halifax before coming to McGill in the fall. After being ripped off by this guy called Psycho for hundreds of my parents' dollars, I was left on the streets broke and with a bad case of pneumonia. Before long I was being picked up by men on Summer Street — at first getting head and then sucking dick for \$40 a time in cars, bushes, apartments and hotel rooms.

Nerves shook me so bad on the first night that it took a while before I could get into the first old guy's car. But I knew I had no choice but to work the streets.

As time progressed, I started to enjoy being a whore in a perverse way — leaning against the fence and waiting for tricks to drive by and pick me up. The whole situation gave me a rush — partly because I knew I was doing something bad. I would often get out of one car to be immediately picked up again, sometimes up to five times a night. When I sucked tricks off, I always made them wear condoms, as I was terrified of getting AIDS.

I had further problems with Psycho, as he wanted me to only work for him. But I kept dodging him, and survived — often sleeping in Dunkin' Donuts or working all night and then crashing on the grass on Citadel Hill in the morning.

Once, two drug dealers Psycho owed a lot of money to came to rough him up. So I was left there with this girl I didn't know and a friend called Bonnie. We got naked. On the floor, Bonnie started giving me head while the other girl rubbed a cold beer bottle across my chest. We fucked. Later, the dealers came back and told me to pay for the job that had been done on Psycho. They were also trying to get me to invest over \$1000 to buy drugs with them to sell.

Weekends in Ottawa: (FALL, 1991)

I also hustled in Ottawa a few times, as hooking had become addictive. It was a lucrative market. I did tricks for \$50 a time, but I also slept with lots of young guys for free. I met a dick named Keith during one trip to Ottawa. He was also trying to get me to work the streets for him, and we spent a lot of time going to Le Pub in Hull, where Keith one time asked me to go with an old guy who wanted to fuck my ass and then shit and piss on me. I didn't go for this. On another occasion, Keith, his pal Dave and I went in a taxi with an old guy back to his place, and while Dave and I 'entertained' the guy in the bedroom upstairs, Keith was busy downstairs stuffing all the jewelry he could find into his coat.

Montréal: (FALL, 1991)

That fall, I tried getting fucked properly for the first time, but it didn't work

out very well. I was standing in the gay village when a really good-looking 24 year old walked by and asked me to go for a couple of drinks. I felt really happy. He took me to an apartment and he didn't use any lube, so the condom broke. He just thrust his cock right up my ass and it hurt like hell and I felt like I was going to explode into a million pieces and begged him to take it out.

About a month after starting at McGill, in October 1991, a woman put on a strip show for me in her Montréal apartment. I began to get hard at the sight of her naked white flesh, and she started rubbing her breasts against my face. The 27 year old blonde very slowly undid my shirt buttons and then ripped my shirt off. My heart was pounding. Sweat was dripping down my forehead and my dick announced its desire to exit from my pants.

Then she released me from my agony by removing my penis from the tight constraint of my pants. I brought her down onto the carpet, thrust myself into her, and began to fuck. Then I lay down on the floor and got her to ride me. She pounded herself down on my cock until I

came. All the while her husband sat in the corner in a chair — silently watching.

Afterwards it turned out that the couple had wanted both me and the husband to screw the wife at the same time. But I genuinely had not understood this when they picked me up on Ste. Catherine's, as their English was rather shaky. Following the fuck, they offered me some cocaine, and drove me back to my McGill residence.

Halifax: (WINTER, 1991)

I returned to Halifax in December 1991. There I made an uneasy truce with Psycho. Nothing was beyond him — not even making me give him the \$40 I had made sucking an old guy's penis on Christmas day. Or drugging my tea with my first hit of acid, and then getting me to hold a whole bunch of acid in my cigarette boxes for him to sell. The worst was the time that he threatened to jab me with a syringe he



One rent- boy's story

A McGill student sex-worker
recounts tough times.

by
A.J.

with Kabir
Ravindra

said was filled with HIV blood.

Eventually, with all the acid I was taking, Halifax began to seem really small, and I was feeling really big and weird. And I jumped on a plane to Montréal after taking a hit of acid.

Halifax: (SUM- MER, 1992)

In June of 1992, I was back in Halifax again. This guy from the Department of

Recreation who I met at the Second Cup Café started to help me out with money problems, since I had lost all my money in the poker machines. I also started to work on Citadel Hill — and not just for money. I did tricks for \$40 a time, including one guy in the middle of the afternoon who I went to Point Pleasant Park with in his truck.

Another trick I got on Summer Street took me into the church cemetery. We found a secluded spot among the tombstones and he sucked me off and played with me. I found another guy later that night called Danny. He was a gym instructor at one of the local universities, and he took me back to his place where we had sex.

I also remember from that summer tricks who picked me up and took me back to their hotel rooms on Brunswick Street. One guy I still remember because I found him so annoying. He had payed for a blow job, but he was so drunk that his dick was completely soft. I spent ages just trying to get him hard, and he kept telling me to play with his slimy balls to stimulate him. Then he played with my dick to stimulate him. I found this very amusing, actually, because I remember him telling me all the time he was doing this that he was straight and only picked up boys because they were cheaper than girls. Eventually, I just walked out.



FLUID SEXUALITY IN A RIGID WORLD

Embracing the possibilities

BY DEREK FUNG

We live in a society where everything needs to be labelled. All our experiences need to be pre-packaged and fit into tiny categories that you can shelve in the back of your mind. These bite-sized pieces are defined in the ever present context of good and evil, making them more digestible for our binary Western world.

Sexuality is no exception. When the term homosexuality was finally conceived, it was instantly labelled as the opposite to heterosexuality. Hetero seen as natural and wholesome and homo as evil and corrupt: two mutually exclusive identities.

Bisexuals challenge the homo/hetero paradigm because we cannot be defined by the gender of our lovers. But we are coming out of a two-way closet. Facing fear and discrimination from both camps, we have been excluded by both sides of our "sexuality". Part of this biphobia stems from the breakdown of the sexual dichotomy.

We aren't just the middle ground either. It is so limiting to say that we are the mess in between two opposite poles. Perhaps it is more accurate to say that "bisexuals" transcend this inner space.

Bisexuality does not mean that you have to be involved with both genders at the same time. It recognizes the love for other people regardless of external appearances. It means loving someone for who they are, for their hearts and minds. It means appreciating the diversity in form. It means respecting each other. In

this sense, bisexuality encompasses the entire spectrum.

Human nature is fluid. With knowledge and experience, we expand our consciousness. People have the ability to change, to flow. As we grow, we are attracted and stimulated by different things. What turns someone on one day, might not the next. Why should anyone limit themselves in terms of sexuality? Why stop before beginning?

This challenge that "bisexuals" present to this dichotomy goes hand in hand with many current phenomena.

The either/or of race is an example of a dichotomy being challenged. People from mixed backgrounds challenges the notion that each person is limited to one ethnicity, one culture. An Asian, African, European individual is entitled to participate and be involved in all three cultures. Just because a person is a fraction of an ethnicity, does not mean that they are only entitled to a fraction of their heritage.

I come from a mixed background myself, so that even before I accepted my bisexuality, I experienced some identity confusion. Coming out has been difficult for me and I believe it is for a lot of other people too.

Bisexuality is a closet with two doors. When I came out it meant opening both of them to the cross-currents of life. The worst part is that there was nothing for me to anchor to. The bi community has been trivialized and ignored. I felt so isolated when I first started peering out around the door.

A sense of belonging is so important for the process of coming out. We need a sense of the past, present, and future. But our history has been swallowed up by gay and lesbian historians and our present is swept aside by monosexism. Where are our heroes? Well the truth is, Sappho wrote poems to men and women. Walt Whitman loved his wife. And the Bloomsbury group, including Virginia Woolf, revelled in their bisexuality at the

turn of the century.

Our heroes are everywhere. They are other bisexuals who have started to build a home for all of us. Lani Ka'ahumanu and Loraine Hutchins editors of the anthology *Bi Any Other Name*, have been inspirations for me. Reading this book helped me realize that there were people who could empathize with my inner turmoil.

Community is also important. A big fear for me was being alone. Who would be there to understand me, hold me, and wipe away my tears? It seemed as if there was no one, but they have been there the whole time, simply hidden. Now the bi community is becoming more public.

I am an out "bisexual" now. The label is so arbitrary, but in a world of labels, it is my passport to society. I try not to see it as limiting, but opening up possibilities for me. Bisexuality has given me a sense of future.

Coming out wasn't as painful as I would have thought. I had support from incredible friends and love and understanding from my mom. Now, I am slowly networking with other members of the bi community to make a safe place for all bisexuals.

This is not to say that I have finished coming out. I feel that this is a continual process. As I come to terms with different parts of my identity, I learn, adapt, and change.

Bisexuality is not a transition point, but an existence. For those of you questioning your sexuality: don't ignore that part of yourself, but embrace it. Don't fear your feelings, but revel in them. After all, as bisexuals, we are your reflections, we are every colour of the rainbow, we are every fraction of your sexuality. So instead of hating and denying our existence, embrace and love your possibilities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION COME TO THE LBGM-BI GROUP MEETING AT 17:30 EVERY WEDNESDAY IN SHATNER 423.

Montréal: (SPRING/SUMMER, 1993)

In the spring of 1993, back here in Montréal, I fell big time for a staff member who I could never have. I still love him and it is different from just lust. I really thought he liked me because, although I never slept with him — he occasionally touched my hands and stroked my face.

That summer, on the rebound, I slept with about five guys each night — mainly in the saunas. I was getting fucked good and hard up the ass, and I loved it.

Montréal: (SPRING, 1994)

That spring saw me involved in a school radio production and then buying female escorts for \$150 an hour. One weekend I even bought two.

I also made a porn video with a twenty something year old man whose name I forgot, when I went to Halifax for a week. He was involved in television, and I wanted him to record himself fucking me on the leather couch at his boss' house. He lifted my legs above my shoulders and drove his cock right up my ass when I said "fuck me". Boy, did I feel it. Luckily I kept the tape.

The end of the summer found me in a car with a young guy I met in club Max in Montréal. He drove me to the back streets and started sucking my cock. But then I saw a load of skinheads coming towards us, so we drove off at full speed.

That fall I dated a male stripper. And my school life continued to improve too, with me still getting good marks at McGill.

A.J. is now planning to write a book about his life story. He hopes it will be made into a Hollywood movie one day. Although he has been off the streets for a while he is thinking about getting a job as an escort in New York this summer.

From hairy spiders to planned parenthood

THE HISTORY OF CONTRACEPTION IN THE WEST

BY HYPATIA FRANCIS

It is written in the *Book of Ecclesiastes* that "there is no new thing under the sun." This is as true of contraception as of any human activity. Contrary to what some believe, the idea of manipulating fertility is neither a recent nor a very progressive development in Western history.

The oldest known document on birth control is an Egyptian papyrus which dates back to 1650 B.C.E. It is a 'recipe' for a pessary containing a sperm-killing chemical. One of the ingredients called for is the gum of the acacia shrub, which, as it turns out, is high in lactic acid. This fact was 'discovered' by modern medicine to have contraceptive properties. Today, this same substance is used in many contraceptive jellies.

In the same period in Egypt, removal of the ovaries was practised along with

the administration of pessaries. Among the papyri which describe various methods of birth control is an account of a king who created female eunuchs. It is not clear whether this measure was taken simply in order to prevent conception or whether it was to keep women nubile and beautiful looking.

It is in Ancient Greece that one finds the first serious thought given to population control. Plato, whose ideal state consisted of exactly 5,040 inhabitants, supported measures ranging from infanticide to abortion, which would ensure that this ideal number was upheld.

However, these rather drastic methods of population control were not the only ones available, and probably by no means the most popular. The men of Crete preferred turning to courtesans rather than impregnating their wives. The role of Folk medicine was also important in Greco-Roman contraception techniques.

Pliny the Elder, a citizen of Rome, recommended the use of Phalangium (hairy spiders) to control fertility. The worms from their bodies were believed to have contraceptive properties. Belief in this persisted even though Greek medicine had already made advances in this area.

The Dark Ages represented a loss of knowledge, not only in philosophy and astronomy, but in contraception as well. Midwives became despised as witches and people increasingly turned to the Church for guidance in all matters, including childbearing.

"Christianity," say Vern and Bonnie Bullough, authors of *Sin, Sickness and Sanity*, "represented a turning point in attitudes because of its strong opposition to both birth control and abortion." Sex, said the Church, was to serve the purpose of procreation. To participate in it

"CONTRACEPTION" (CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

AIDS: Power through knowledge

A SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION OF AIDS IN NORTH AMERICA



There is a large movement of people who advocate abstinence. This is not a choice that everyone is prepared to make. Sex is something that will always happen, so it is important to be safe. Unfortunately, due to the shame and embarrassment around sex, a lot of people don't know enough about safer sex.

BY DEREK FUNG

A campaign of fear has been used to try to scare people about AIDS. Instead of solving the problem, it has caused a massive backlash against the Centre for Disease Control's "4Hs": homosexuals, heroin users, Haitians, and hemophiliacs. With a subject like AIDS, it is important to restore hope and the best way to do that is through knowledge. Instead of using ignorance to instill fear and hatred, the public must be informed and educated.

AIDS is a condition which eventually leads to the complete deterioration of the body's immune system. It is thought, but has not been proven, that the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), is the cause of AIDS. HIV attacks Helper T-cells so the body can't defend itself. The immune system is damaged to such an extent that it can't protect against common infections.

Here are the numbers

AIDS is the number one killer of people age 25 to 44 according to a recent US study. This report also showed that among documented cases, the highest rate of transmission is through heterosexual sex.

Another study, by the University of Michigan, showed that in the first two months after being infected with HIV, the rate of transmission is at least 100 to 1,000 times higher than at any other time. During this period, the person would not even know that they had the virus.

The *Boston Globe* reported that in a survey of 2,500 people diagnosed with AIDS, nearly 60 per cent did not get tested for HIV until they showed the first signs of AIDS. Dr. Harold Jaffe of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention added that a good number of people who did test for HIV, fell ill only two

months or less later. Most of the infections were through heterosexual contact. This means that people who were HIV positive, might have unknowingly transmitted the virus to others.

Current Research

A recent development has been the theory that HIV alone is not enough to cause AIDS. Instead, they speculate that AIDS is due to several agents (like other viruses) that target the immune system and destroy it.

Viruses have been found that work together with HIV to cause AIDS. HHV-6, human herpes virus, plays an important role in the progression of AIDS. Research has proven that this virus is a co-factor. While HIV selectively destroys key elements of the immune system, HHV-6 kills cells unaffected by HIV. HHV-6 is present in 90% of the population in a dormant phase and becomes active after HIV invades the immune system.

There is also evidence that HIV alone is not enough to cause AIDS. In North America alone, there are over 750 documented cases of HIV-less AIDS. Researchers are still puzzled over the cause, but little research is being done.

The government is trying to ignore these cases which don't fit their model. The problem is that all the models are purely theoretical and none have been proven conclusively. Despite this, the government continues to focus on a few models at the expense of others which may be more plausible in light of recent discoveries.

Sexually transmitted diseases, can also play significant roles in causing AIDS. Unfortunately, safer sex awareness has centered around HIV only. In doing this, more infectious diseases which can have serious affects have been ig-

nored. These other diseases can be passed easily through unprotected sex with a low HIV transmission risk.

The news isn't all bad

New studies are coming out with significant steps in caring for AIDS.

Jonas Salk, the scientist who created the polio vaccine, has developed an AIDS vaccine called Immunogen. It is alleged to help HIV-infected people live longer. The vaccine is awaiting FDA approval now to do a wide scale test on human subjects. Michael Slatting of the AIDS Research Alliance received the vaccine in 1988 and says that his immune system has been more aggressive than other patients.

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in the US has found that the body has ways to contain HIV through immune suppression. Interleukin-2 induces the T-cell suppressor phenomenon. Patients who have received IL-2 treatment over two to three years in conjunction with AZT — a popular drug used to slow the spread of HIV — have shown marked improvements. Scientists at NIAID have also developed another vaccine that has been effective in stopping the spread of HIV in cell cultures and has stopped cell death.

What can we do?

Different people have had different reactions to the AIDS crisis. There is a large movement of people who advocate abstinence. This is not a choice that everyone is prepared to make. Sex is something that will always happen, so it is important to be safe. Unfortunately, due to the shame and embarrassment around sex, a lot of people don't know enough about safer sex.

Cunnilingus has often been ignored as a route of transmission. Many believe that the rate of transmission is so low that it can be ignored. According to Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services in San Francisco, they have cases where women have been infected with HIV through other women. Also in performing unprotected cunnilingus, the risk of contracting an STD is increased significantly.

There are plenty of fun and creative things you can use as a barrier. Some people cut a condom down the length and use it as a dental dam. Other people use a cut up glove. Others prefer Saran Wrap because it doesn't have that nasty latex taste and conforms to the shape of your partners privates.

Fellatio has always been a questionable topic as well. The facts are that there is a very low concentration of HIV in saliva. In semen though, the concentration of HIV is much higher. Some people have said that there is a relatively low risk of transmission, but this does not mean there is no risk.

There have been cases of oral transmission. HIV isn't the only problem to worry about. There are STDs that could

be factors in AIDS which are easily transmitted by oral sex. The easiest way to deal with this is to use a condom.

I know everyone is tired of hearing about it, but for penetrative sex, the importance of a condom can never be stressed enough. We aren't talking about the condoms as only a contraceptive to prevent pregnancy, but as a shield against HIV and STDs.

So what have we learned?

AIDS is a very real problem. Because there has been so much attention focused on AIDS in the last ten years, people now tend to be very blasé when it comes to this disease. Although the rate of infection is leveling off, there are still at least 40,000 new cases a year and at least 40,000 deaths a year according to Dr. Mervyn Silverman, president of the American Foundation for AIDS Research. This means that everyday, 200 more people are being diagnosed with HIV.

We are all affected by AIDS. Everyday, we are bombarded with more statistics and more speeches. The reality of AIDS is scary and it is important to fear and respect it, but don't let that fear control you. Let knowledge empower you. Fight AIDS by dispelling the myths and playing safe.

For more information, recent research in AIDS can be found on the Internet in the newsgroups: *gay-net.aids*,

bit.listserv.aidsnews,
misc.health.aids.

You can also call the following numbers to get more information about AIDS and safer sex techniques.

AIDS Hotline: 939-0075

Info-SIDA: 281-6629

AIDS Centre-Ville: 847-0644

AIDS Community Care -
Montreal: 287-3551

AIDS Intervention Centre:
934-0552

Centre for AIDS Services of
Montreal (Women):
954-0170

Sources

Stephen Cody Coderre
Lani Ka'ahumanu

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Centre
Journal of the Physicians Association
for AIDS Care

The Associated Press, "FDA mulls over
Salk AIDS Vaccine". 26 Jan, 1994.

The *Boston Globe*. 30 Jan, 1994.

The *New York Times*. 31 Jan, 1994

Really cruising the 'net

SEX ON THE DATA SUPERHIGHWAY



BY AUBREY COHEN

Where can you get tips on secure and safe ways to tie up your loved one? Where can you get the dirt on the latest erotic films? Where can you get stories about absolutely anything? The answer is, of course, on the internet.

Since the beginning of the information revolution, sex has become one of the hottest topics on the data superhighway. On host sites and on more than 85 news readers, internet junkies discuss issues ranging from bondage, exhibitionism and sportswear fetishes to sexual addiction, sexual abuse and sexuality in general.

Controversy has begun to rage recently, however, over the content of some of these newsgroups. There are whole groups devoted to the subjects of pedophilia, bestiality and necrophelia. There is also a site where erotic pictures of children are posted. Many of the stories posted on alt.sex.stories and on other groups contain pedophilia, bestiality and extreme misogyny. There is also rampant homophobia.

To censor or not to censor?

All of this has inspired some to call for measures to control the content of the internet. According to professor David Jones of McMaster University, there have already been various instances of censorship of electronic communications — in Canada and elsewhere.

On the networks at the University of Waterloo, erotic digital pictures are not banned, however, written stories as well as discussion of these stories are banned.

At the University of Guelph, a student is facing "human rights" charges for her role in helping run a "tasteless jokes" conference on a campus computer and there are rumours she might be expelled.

The sex newsgroups have been abuzz lately with talk about a male student at the University of Michigan who named an actual female student in a violent sex story which he posted on alt.sex.stories. The president of the University of Michigan called him a "threat to the safety of the university community" and suspended him — immediately, without any legal

process.

McGill Philosophy Professor Susan Dwyer teaches and does research in the areas of pornography and free speech. She said she uses the information available on the sex news-readers in her classes "as a way of letting my students know what the content of current pornography is."

According to Dwyer, there is no need for special concern about pornography on the internet.

"The question is, 'Is the stuff on the internet any different from the stuff which is already available on the market?'," she noted.

Internet sex and pornography laws

According to section 163 of the Canadian Criminal Code, certain types of 'obscenity' can be censored if they fail to pass the community standards test of tolerance: that is, what Canadians are willing to tolerate other Canadians seeing.

In the 1992 Butler verdict, the Supreme Court deemed that "explicit sex with violence, horror or cruelty" and "explicit sex in which one or more of the participants is degraded or dehumanized" would be unlikely to pass this test.

Some argue, however, that the internet should be subject to the same regulations as television broadcasts — as the information available on the internet is readily accessible to all, including young children.

Given this situation, Dwyer conceded, "there may be room for some kind of regulation of the internet so long as that regulation did not exceed the boundaries of what is already considered to be constitutionally unproblematic restriction."

She questioned, however, the need for such measures.

"If a young person, in manifesting what I would call natural curiosity, explored the internet, I want to hear precisely how they're being harmed," she noted.

Homophobes jamming the superhighway

Donald Suggs, Director of Public Affairs for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in New York City said he is concerned about homophobia on the information superhighway.

"I think that the internet poses some new challenges because it is so large and it is in some ways unsupervised," he commented, adding, "that's also its strength, because it is a place where ideas can be exchanged freely."

As for how to deal with the homophobia, Suggs said, "I think it's really up to people who are using the internet to make it clear to other users that they find this kind of homophobia offensive. I don't think censorship is the answer."

A United States Senator recently introduced a measure which would make all telecommunications providers in the US liable for the content of anything sent over their networks. According to the Communications Decency Act of 1995, network operators would have to monitor all messages before they send them over their networks. Failure to do so could result in tens of thousands of dollars in fines and up to two years in jail.

Suggs expressed concern about such

legislation, noting that gays are often the victims of censorship regulations on other materials. Canadian customs officials, for instance, regularly confiscate shipments headed for gay, lesbian and bisexual bookstores across the country.

There is a wealth of informative and entertaining material dealing with sex on the internet. Newsgroups can be invaluable sources of information on a wide range of topics. They can also help unite people around the world who share similar interests and fetishes.

Those who are in a rush to 'get off' on the internet, however, should exercise caution. Net explorers may find much of the material available offensive. People may want to keep in mind that some things may simply be a matter of taste and, if they do not share the same fascinations, they should look elsewhere. The news group alt.sex.stories has much of the potentially offensive stuff. For more palatable stories, see rec.arts.erotica.

For the moment the internet is remarkably free and unregulated. The availability of such widely varied material on the news groups and net sites is proof of this. Before people seek to use legal means to eradicate the stuff they do not agree with, they should consider what impact such regulation would have on the value of the internet as a whole.

FROM THE PROVOCATIVE TO THE PROFANE

There are more than 85 news groups on the internet which center around sex issues. Here are a few of the more interesting ones:

alt.magic.sex
alt.recovery.addiction.sexual
alt.sex.bestiality.barney
alt.sex.bestiality.hamster.duct-tape
alt.sex.bondage
alt.sex.erotica.marketplace
alt.sex.femdom
alt.sex.fetish.diapers
alt.sex.fetish.robots
alt.sex.fetish.sportswear
alt.sex.fetish.startrek

alt.sex.guns
alt.sex.homosexual
alt.sex.movies
alt.sex.necrophelia
alt.sex.plushies
alt.sex.spanking
alt.sex.stories
alt.sex.watersports
alt.sex.wizards
alt.tv.tiny-toon.sex
rec.arts.erotica

NOTE: THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDENT MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE WAS BROUGHT UP ON FEDERAL CHARGES LAST FRIDAY.

A HISTORY OF CONTRACEPTION

continued from page 9

simply for enjoyment was a sin. To use contraception meant that one was using sex for enjoy-

ment, not to procreate.

While the Renaissance was a 'rebirth' of knowledge in many areas, little development was made in the field of contracep-

tives. It was not considered lofty enough to warrant consideration, perhaps. No one paid any serious attention to the issue until the end of the 18th century, when Thomas Malthus published his paper on population control.

Sex became secularized and the state took charge of 'police motherhood'. Infanticide and abortion were both criminalized. By the same token, married couples became preoccupied with the idea of limiting family size in order to maintain their standard of living. According to Canadian historian Angus McLaren, the producers of condoms were able to launch the 'commercialization' of contraception.

The popularization of contraception, however, did not serve to stop conception so much as it allowed women to space

out pregnancies. Rather than having births all crowded into the first years of marriage, couples were able to have fewer children and to take better care of them, thus lowering infant mortality. European women however, still did not have very much control over whether they conceived or not.

The condom, because of its very nature served the man's desires rather than the woman's. The issue of birth control began to cause marital discord. The Protestant Church decreed that a woman must obey her husband in this matter. Essentially, women were not allowed to control their pregnancies, even after the means were made available.

With the early 20th century came neo-Malthusianism. A leader of this movement was

Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, who introduced the idea of family planning. Today she is seen in an ambiguous light as she advocated both the accessibility of contraception and contraception as a means of controlling population of the 'unfit' and the poor. In this way the ideas of birth control and eugenics became linked.

Many women in the Western world are fortunate today to have access to not only the condom, but the pill, the diaphragm, the sponge, contraceptive jellies and various other means of birth control. However, to say that this access is universal is an overstatement.

This is especially the case when we look at birth control in many other parts of the world and even certain segments of Western society. Access is often limited by economics and lack of education about contraception. The use of birth control also continues to be limited by prevailing conservative attitudes about the immorality of sex outside the purpose of reproduction.

Today, in the age of sex education, high schools are still reluctant to install condom machines in their washrooms for fear that this will encourage sex. Even though we are all supposed to be sexually liberated, the Vatican still feels that it has the right to suggest to Bosnian victims of systematic rape that they not seek abortions.

This underlines the fact that birth control is not only closely linked with sexuality, but with control over the body as well. The evolution of birth control in Western society traces the history of its women's autonomy.

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SELLING THAILAND

continued from page 6

streets of Bangkok, trying to make a living pan-handling outside the doors of their former "employers".

Some Thai groups are attempting to break the cycle of poverty and dependence that underlies the prostitution trap. Aju Jupoh, director of the Association for Akha education and Culture in Thailand, helps to set up programmes in indigenous villages to give parents and children an alternative option to prostitution. The non-governmental organization EMPOWER works in brothels and areas like Patpong to try and educate prostitutes and advocate for their rights.

The efforts of EMPOWER and people like Jupoh can be instrumental in assisting the marginalised communities which are easy prey for pimps.

Western tourists and businessmen must question what they see in Patpong. Is it a carnival of uninhibited sexuality, or the "oldest profession in the world" caught in a web of poverty and death?

events

Monday

• **McGill Entrepreneurs Club**, in conjunction with **HEC, UQAM**, and **Concordia**, presents Marshall Moyenne, founder of Télécité. 17h30, Arts 270.

Professor Claire Kramsch, Dept of German, University of California at Berkeley will give a lecture today entitled: "Blurred Edges: Culture in Language Teaching". 18h, Redpath Museum Auditorium.

• **Dept. of Anthropology and Speaker series and proseminar in socio-cultural anthropology (151-680D)** co-present Dr. Jo-Anne Bennett, Cambridge University, on "Princes and Paupers: The Uses of Education in Northern Ghana" 12h30-14h30. Leacock 738.

• **The Dept. of History** presents a bilingual debate entitled "French Canadian Youth 1920-1940: Conservative or Fascist?" (Une jeunesse canadienne-française 1920-1940-conservative ou fasciste?) with Catherine Pomeyrols, Gérard Pelletier, Jean-Louis, Gérard and Esther Delisle (senator). Thomson House, 3650 McTavish, 15h. All welcome.

• **The McGill Southeast Asian Students' Association (SEASA)** and the **Québec Esperanto Association (KEA)** are offering a 6-week Introductory Esperanto course from Feb. 27-April 3, Info: 522-9524, or bbq@musich, or bmak@faci.lan.mcgill.ca.

• **Erskine and American United Church** and the **United Church Heritage Trust Fund** present a Thrift Shop every Monday from 10h00 to 16h00 at 3407 du Musée. The funds will go to aid the United Church Archives.

Tuesday

• **The Federation of Jewish Community Services of Montréal** orientation meeting for volunteers for the Shalom Line, the Jewish community's anonymous and confidential telephone service for Montréalers in distress. 19h30, 5151 Côte Ste. Catherine. Info: Suzanne Herscovitch, 735-3541, local 3380.

• **Theatre de la Grenouille** at Players' Theatre presents *Jacques et son maître* by Milan Kundera at Player's Theatre, on the 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 February at 20h00. \$6 students, \$12 regular.

• **The Walksafe Network** presents its first annual Valentine's Day Charity Drive for the Missing Children's Network. Project runs from 6h45 until 17h30 or 18h. Info: 398-2498.

• **The Walksafe Network** will set up a table in the Shatner Building where food will be sold. Proceeds will go to the Kobe Relief Fund, to help the earthquake survivors in Kobe, Japan.

• "Comedy at the Alley" by the **McGill Improv**, proceeds go to the Missing Children's Network. 18h Info: 398-2498.

• Informal lecture entitled "Redefining Literacy is a Foreign

Language" to be presented to the German Studies Dept, 15h, Arts Council Rm, Arts Building, rm 160.

• **Body Image, Food and Emotions: Moving Towards Acceptance.** A 7 week workshop dealing with issues of body image for women who are preoccupied with food intake and/or weight. Not a weight loss group. Tues-

days, 19h15-21h, Feb.7 to March 21. Info: Marissa 842-3351

• **The Concordia School of Community and Public Affairs** presents Prof. Daniel Salée who will speak on "Identity Politics and the Challenge of Sovereignty" 12h in the Basement Lounge at 2149 MacKay.

events continued on page 14



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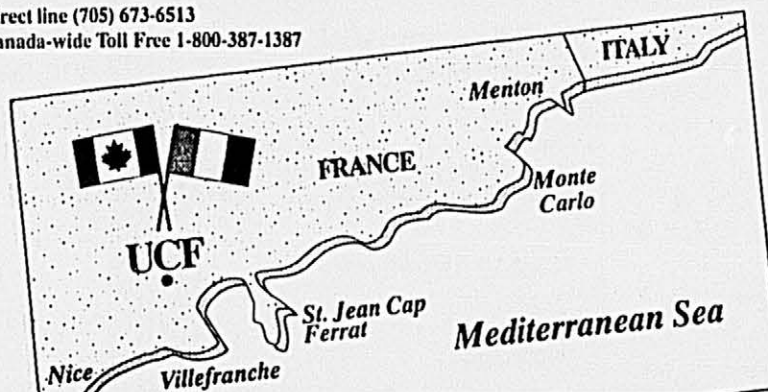
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events

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

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THURSDAY

• The Yellow Door Coffee House presents Eugene Abrams and Robert Majzels. Open stage to follow. 20h30. Admission \$2. 3625 Aylmer. Info: 398-6243.

• McGill's Department of Linguistics present Jonathan Bobaljik of MIT who will speak on "The Morphological Determination of Germanic Syntax". at 13h00 in Bronfman 37.
• Concordia's Liberal Arts College presents Prof. Hayden White on "Self, Voice, and Identity: The Crisis of Humanistic Ethics" at 20h30 in the Hall Building, 1455 de Maisonneuve West, rm H-110. Info: 848-2565.

• The Japan Awareness Club presents a benefit concert featuring Arashi Daiko at 18h30 in the Shatner Ballroom. The performance will be followed by a workshop. Admission is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. proceeds to the Kobe Relief Fund. The tickets will be sold Mon, Tues, and Wed from 11h00 to 14h00 in

Bronfman.

• WUSC International Development Symposium: "Education for all: from rights to reality". 9h to 12h: Gender Issues and Education in the Third World and Canada in Wilson Bldg, 3506 University, rm 104.. 13h to 16h: Global Change Game in Shatner Ballroom. 18h: First Nations Perspectives in Wilson Bldg, rm 104. Information: 499-1167.

• Concordia Irish Lecture Series present Michael Langley 20h00 in the Hall Bldg., 1455 de Maisonneuve, rm H767.

FRIDAY

• The Yellow Door Coffee House presents Keith Donahue and "an evening of traditional Irish music". Open stage to follow. 20h30, door opens at 20h. Admission \$2. 3625 Aylmer. Info: 398-6243.

• The Centre for Society, Technology, and Development in collaboration with Aboriginal Government, Resources, Economy, and Environment presents Paul Wilkinson on "The Anthropology of Advocacy: Environmental Impact Assessment and Other Development Frameworks in the North" at 12h30 to 14h30. For information, call 398-1807.

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7 - ARTICLES FOR SALE

Add a little colour to your computing! **For sale:** Apple 12" RGB monitor for Mac. Two years old. Excellent condition. Sharp picture, excellent colour quality. Asking \$250. Call 398-6785 (days) or leave message at 457-3639.

13 - LESSONS/COURSES

Singing Lessons. Bilingual, private teacher of twenty years experience. Classical, Broadway, Pop. For beginners to advanced. Near downtown. 484-5407.

Medicine

One Great Professor - One Great Preparation - The Medical School Preparatory Course. We wrote the Book on MCAT! Call 1-800-463-6463 (The Gold Standard) is available at the McGill Bookstore.

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14 - NOTICES

Going to New York, Washington, Atlantic City, Philadelphia? Can \$169 - transportation, hotel, breakfast, tax incl. Spring break. Fri., Feb 17 (8 pm) - 21 (10 pm). Bookings 286-8176.

Cuba Spring Break! Only \$685 - Airfare, visa, transfer to hotel & back. Sunny Varadero. 2 per room. 10 universities invited Feb. 19-26. Bookings 989-1017, 935-6029.

Walksafe Network 398-2498. Anyone, anywhere every night Sunday to Thursday 7:00-12:45. Friday and Saturday 7:00-2:30. Please call 30 min. in advance.

Get your message across... Advertise in the McGill Daily! Call Letty or Boris at 398-6790 TODAY!

McGILL NIGHTLINE

McGill Nightline is an information, listening and referral service. Open 6pm-3am. 398-6246.

LBGM discussion grps. Wed. 5:30 Bi-Group Shatner 423. Thurs. 6PM womyn's grp. Shatner 423. Fri. coming-out 5:30 & General 7PM, 3521 University. All welcome.

15 - VOLUNTEERS

Interested in Alcoholism? Seeking volunteers for an alcohol-related study conducted in Dr. Amit laboratory. For info: leave message at 486-3018.

Volunteers needed for Brain scanning experiments. Subjects will need to come to the Montreal Neurological Institute on 2 separate occasions. Pay \$150. Call 398-7349. Leave message.

16 - LUSTFUL THOUGHTS

Jeff - Don't believe what they say - Valentine's Day's really the 17th - We'll show them! Rendezvous by the fire for fondue, wine & a roll of 36... Je t'aime.

To my honey-bunny Marky: I'll send you kisses left and right, and then when you go I hope you'll hold onto them with all your might! I love you. Your sunshine.

Beam me up Scotty! Love from your secret admirer. XO.

To last year's Molson 5. DFA. It's still all true! Love and miss you all! Love, Simmy XO.

I This Valentine's Day? Let's get together and do it the old fashioned way. P.S. I love you. Love, your sweetie.

To my one and only sweetie, remember our old man's beards? That was the funniest thing or maybe it was the wave goodbye the other day? Do you wanna be mine?

Cyrl je suis a jamais la Reine du Quetaine XXXP

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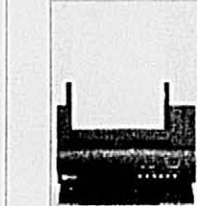
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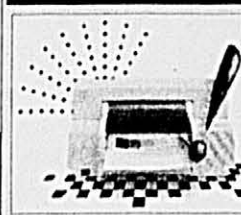
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Maxwell Cummings Lecture

Professor Claire Kramsch
Department of German
University of California at Berkeley

"Blurred Edges: Culture in Language Teaching"

Monday, February 13, 1995
6:00 p.m.

Redpath Museum Auditorium

Informal Lectures:

"The privilege of the non-native speaker." Lecture presented to the English and French Language Centre on Monday, February 13, 1995, 1:30 p.m., 550 Sherbrooke Street West, West Tower, Room 1550.

"Redefining literacy in a foreign language." Lecture presented to the Department of German Studies on Tuesday, February 14, 1995, 3:00 p.m., Arts Council Room, Arts Building, Room 160.

ARTS UNDERGRADUATE SOCIETY

ELECTIONS

MARCH 7, 8, 9

EXTENDED NOMINATIONS FOR ALL POSITIONS
UNTIL FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 AT 3PM

POSITIONS STILL AVAILABLE:

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VICE PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)
VICE PRESIDENT (FINANCE)
VICE PRESIDENT (INTERNAL)
VICE PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION)
ARTS REPRESENTATIVES TO SSMU (3)

NOMINATION FORMS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE AUS OFFICE:
1085 DR. PENFIELD, RM 304, 10:00 - 3:00

ALL CANDIDATES MEETING ON
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 3:30 - 5:00PM, SHATNER 435

INQUIRIES CAN BE MADE AT THE AUS OFFICE
OR BY CALLING GEORGE (CRO) AT 398-1993

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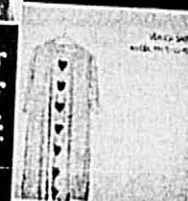
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